

## **An introduction to our projects in Wiltshire**

Bleys House, Drinkwater Court and Sidmouth Street are our young persons' projects in Wiltshire. They provide supported housing for young people aged 16 to 21 years. All projects are medium to low support.

### **Accommodation**

**Bleys House** is a six-bedroom house that provides medium to low support with housing management to six young people, male and female. The accommodation consists of five bedrooms which have en-suite showers, toilets and sinks, and one bedroom which has a separate bathroom with the same facilities. There is a communal kitchen, a lounge and a dining room which is accessible to all clients. Clients also have access to the garden at the back of Bleys House. Clients are expected to be able to live communally and respect others within the project. We want the project to be safe for everyone and there are guidelines in place to ensure this for all residents, staff and visitors.

**Drinkwater Court** is a project that consists of 6 one-bedroom flats that provide medium to low support with housing management for six young people near Trowbridge town centre. The flats are fully self-contained and were newly built in 2005.

**Sidmouth Street** is located in Devizes and can house three young people in 2 one-bedroom flats and one bedsit. The project is centrally based and has shared access with two private houses. The flats are fully self-contained and were a new development in 2008/2009.

### **Staffing**

The Wiltshire team consists of one Senior Supported Housing Officer and two Supported Housing Officers and a Service Manager who cover all the projects on a rota system, plus additional of security support at weekends.

Each client is allocated a support worker on arrival and other workers are available within the project at all times. Clients meet with their support worker on a weekly basis or as and when needed depending on the young persons' need.

All clients have the contact numbers for staff at our high support project in Bath which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and also a security number for out-of-hours emergencies.

### **Supporting young people**

On entry, every client will have a comprehensive needs assessment, risk assessment and risk management plan and training needs assessment. Clients then work with their support worker to complete a mutually agreed support plan based on the outcome of the needs, training and risk assessments. Their involvement in this process is essential and core to the success of achieving aims and goals.

The above documents are reviewed every three months as standard and also at a client's request or in the event of an incident or significant change in circumstances. The aim of our Wiltshire projects is to provide stable accommodation with a holistic approach in order to support young people to move on into medium and low

support accommodation and independent living. Clients receive assistance in setting up and maintaining their accommodation and we provide comprehensive advice on budgeting, benefits, drug and alcohol issues and offending behaviour. We also work closely with external agencies to help young people with any emotional or health needs they may have.

The Wiltshire projects also empower young people to utilise local resources and training services such as basic skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT. We can also provide assistance in preparing CVs and interview techniques.

For those with more in-depth issues around offending, drug/alcohol use and mental health we recognise that we are not a specialist support service and Wiltshire staff will refer and access specialist services in order to provide support in these areas.

### **Client involvement**

Clients are encouraged to be involved in the running of the project, and to attend group activities.

We currently have a cooking, art and gardening group and are also planning other ideas for the forthcoming year. Clients are also involved at a strategic level and we have currently have two client representative positions on the Board of Management and on the appeals and fundraising panel. Clients are also involved in creating and implementing our involvement strategy to ensure inclusion for all our clients within the YPS service. We facilitate client meetings and also questionnaires which consult clients on the service that we provide and constantly seek ideas for improvement. We are committed to doing all that we reasonably can to ensure that clients take responsibility for and control over their lives by encouraging them to make their own choices and decisions within the remit and guidelines of our services. Our goal is to ensure all clients have as much respect, dignity and independent choice over issues in their lives.

### **How to apply**

Applications to any of our Wiltshire projects are through direct nominations only by the local authority. Self-referrals are not accepted. The decision as to where a young person will be housed is made by the staff interviewing and the client's own choice. It is also based on the written application, the interview, the support level identified for that young person and contribution from the referring agent.

Should you have any problems with your referral or need more advice or would like to visit the project please contact any of the following staff on the following numbers: Bleys House, 01249 464399 or Drinkwater Court, 01225 760621.

Alternatively you can also leave a message with our Bath team on 01225 339330.

**Ali Kenney, Senior Supported Housing Officer**  
**Gemma Angell, Supported Housing Officer**  
**Rachael Humphrey, Supported Housing Officer**  
**Anita Holden, Service Manager**

**This service is funded by Wiltshire Supporting People. Clients can access the service for a maximum of two years.**